

I. Introduction: Naomi and Ruth were running out of time because the barley harvest was almost over, so Naomi came up with a plan for Ruth to approach Boaz at the threshing floor.

II. The Plan of Redemption (Ruth 3:1-18).

A. A Sketchy Idea (vv. 1-5).

1. Naomi sought security and rest for Ruth, so she instructed her to go and wait for Boaz at the threshing floor, and to lie down at his feet when he was asleep.

B. A Secret Proposal (vv. 6-9).

1. Naomi told Ruth to come to Boaz at night and to wait for him to tell her what to do, but Ruth boldly asked him to marry her and become her kinsman-redeemer.

C. A Surprising Promise (vv. 10-15).

1. Boaz blessed Ruth for her kindness in proposing marriage to an older man, he gave Ruth six measures of barley as proof of his willingness to marry her.

D. A Swift Response (vv. 16-18).

1. Boaz made an oath that he would not rest until he had either married her or secured a husband for her. So Naomi told Ruth to wait until he had settled the matter.

III. Conclusion: Naomi came up with a plan for Ruth to propose marriage to Boaz. Boaz happily agreed, but there was a closer relative that had the right to redeem her first.

Questions About: The Plan of Redemption

1. What is your proposal story? Did it go according to plan, or did it go badly? How would it have gone if your wife proposed? Did you talk about marriage before the proposal?
2. What was Naomi's plan to bring Ruth and Boaz together? (**Ruth 3:1-5**) Why did Naomi feel pressured to get it done quickly? (**2:23**) What would happen when the harvest ended?
3. Why was Naomi's plan risky? (**Ruth 3:1-5**) What did she instruct Ruth to do? (**vv. 3-4**) Why did Naomi tell Ruth to wait to approach Boaz at night? How did Ruth reply? (**v. 5**)
4. How did Ruth obey and also not obey Naomi's instructions? (**Ruth 3:6-8**) Why did Ruth wait until Boaz had eaten to approach him? (**v. 7**) Why was he sleeping on his pile of grain? (**v. 7**)
5. Why did Boaz ask who Ruth was? (**v. 9**) What was the significance of her saying, "spread your covering (or wings) over your maid"? (**v. 9; Ruth 2:12**) How was he a "redeemer"? (**v. 9**)
6. What was Boaz's response to Ruth's proposal? (**Ruth 3:10-15**) Why did he tell her not to fear? (**v. 11**) What was Boaz's evaluation of Ruth? (**v. 11**) What was a potential obstacle to marriage?
7. What did Boaz give Ruth as a symbol of his commitment to her and Naomi? (**Ruth 3:15-18**) What was Naomi's response to his gesture? (**v. 18**) What does this tell you about Boaz?
8. How can we be known as people of excellence like Ruth and Boaz? How is Boaz a picture of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer? How are sinners like Ruth? Why do we need redemption?

Prayer

1. Pray that we would live for Jesus in a way that makes us men and women of excellent character.
2. Ask God to reveal how we might better appreciate His work of redemption through Jesus Christ.